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Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0077

Anonymous public comment

Submitter Information

General Comment

The Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay (Document ID EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001) is, overall, succinct and scientific and addresses the main issue for which it was written. Unfortunately, the Draft predominantly mentions the quality of water for the Chesapeake Bay. Because the Draft is a document pertaining to TMDL's this might well be expected. However, the quantity of water that is being received by the Chesapeake Bay is an issue that should not be completely ignored in the draft. Water quantity may not be a pressing issue at the moment, but the collusion of a host of factors could raise the issue in importance rapidly.

Furthermore, the draft seems to hint at no ambiguity between point and nonpoint sources of pollution. In reality, there often is a gray area where point and nonpoint sources of pollution overlap, rendering the EPA's authority to regulate these sources seemingly less legally sound. If the EPA's backdrop authority is to remain an effective measure in tightening controls on federally permitted point sources of pollution, a less ambiguous definition should be given to point sources of pollution and, consequently, how they differ from nonpoint sources of pollution.